

## Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 MCT-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 /050 W  
-----126639 290201Z /73  
R 281604Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2292

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14092

FOR A/SY/CC, A/SY/FO AND M/CT FROM RSO

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING IN MEXICO CITY

1. EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICERS WERE ADVISED BY IBM CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SECURITY, ANTHONY POHL, THAT A NINE YEAR OLD CHILD, THE SON OF AN IBM EMPLOYEE, WAS KIDNAPPED ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 20. THE CHILD WAS RELEASED IN GOOD HEALTH ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23, FOLLOWING PAYMENT OF 700,000 PESOS (U.S.\$30,973).

2. ON THE AFTERNOON OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, A MEXICAN EMPLOYEE (NOT AN EXECUTIVE) OF IBM TOOK HIS WIFE AND NINE YEAR OLD SON TO VISIT HIS SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW AT THEIR HOME. THE HOME IS LOCATED IN AN EXCLUSIVE AND WEALTHY SECTION OF THE CITY. AT APPROXIMATELY 4 PM THE CHILD WENT RIDING IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ON HIS BICYCLE. WHEN HE HAD NOT RETURNED AT 6 PM, A SEARCH WAS INITIATED WHICH LOCATED THE BICYCLE LEANING AGAINST A TREE. INQUIRY DISCLOSED THE BIKE HAD BEEN FOUND IN THE STREET BUT NO ONE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE MISSING CHILD.

3. THE FAMILY RECEIVED A CALL SUNDAY NIGHT AT THE HOME  
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OF THE BROTHER-IN-LAW, WHICH CONFIRMED THE KIDNAPPING AND DEMANDED 15,000,000 PESOS (U.S.\$663,716). DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS, A COUNTER OFFER OF 50,000 (U.S.\$2,212) WAS MADE BUT REJECTED. ULTIMATELY, AND AFTER CONFIRMATION OF THE BOY'S GOOD HEALTH, A 700,000 (U.S.\$30,973) RANSOM WAS AGREED UPON. A DIVERSIFIED AND MULTIPLE SERIES OF DIRECTIONS WAS INITIATED AT 8 PM WEDNESDAY, AUG 23, WHICH RE-

SULTED IN THE RANSOM DELIVERY. THE CHILD WAS RETURNED,  
VIA TAXI, AT 11 PM THAT EVENING.

4. CONTRARY TO A WARNING FROM THE KIDNAPPERS, THE CHIEF  
OF POLICE WAS ADVISED OF THE KIDNAPPING BUT THE FAMILY  
DECLINED THE OFFER OF POLICE ASSISTANCE. THE ENTIRE  
NEGOTIATION PROCEEDINGS WERE CONDUCTED BY THE FAMILY.

5. POHL ADVISED THAT THREE MEN WERE INVOLVED AND OPINED  
THAT THEY SOUGHT A TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY IN AN APPARENTLY  
WEALTHY NEIGHBORHOOD AND THAT IT WAS NOT, IN ANY MANNER,  
DIRECTED AGAINST AN AMERICAN FIRM. FYI: THE RANSOM WAS  
NOT PAID BY IBM. ALTHOUGH THE FATHER OF THE CHILD IS NOT  
PARTICULARLY AFFLUENT, OTHER SEGMENTS OF THE FAMILY ARE  
AND THE MONEY WAS RAISED FROM THEM. MCANINCH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978MEXICO14092  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**TAGS:** ASEC  
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**Review Markings:**  
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